



HILLCREST RECYCLING SITE

All POL/SITREP's for this site (sitrep_list.aspx?site_id=8169) **Hillcrest** [Printer Friendly Version \(polrep_p](#)

Recycling

Site

Attica, NY -

EPA Region

II

POLREP #4

Hillcrest

Recycling

Fire

Response

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
POLLUTION/SITUATION REPORT
Hillcrest Recycling Site - Removal Polrep
Final Removal Polrep



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
Region II

Subject:

POLREP #4
Hillcrest Recycling Fire Response
Hillcrest Recycling Site
02ME
Attica, NY
Latitude: 42.8605560 Longitude: -78.2736560

To:

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James Strickland, NYSDEC Region 9
Francis Campbell, Weston
Michael Hughes, NYSDOH
William Bullard, NYSDOH
Patricia Fritz, NYSDOH
Thomas Wainman, NYSDOH
Gregg Recer, NYSDOH
Mary Mears, USEPA Region 2

From:

Jeff Bechtel, On-Scene Coordinator

Date:

10/14/2012

Reporting Period:

October 12-14, 2012

1. Introduction

1.1 Background



Site Number:	02ME	Contract Number:	EP-S2-10-03
D.O. Number:	0055	Action Memo Date:	9/21/2012
Response Authority:	CERCLA	Response Type:	Emergency
Response Lead:	PRP	Incident Category:	Removal Action
NPL Status:	Non NPL	Operable Unit:	
Mobilization Date:	9/21/2012	Start Date:	9/21/2012
Demob Date:	10/2/2012	Completion Date:	10/14/2012
CERCLIS ID:		RCRIS ID:	
ERNS No.:		State Notification:	09/11/2012
FPN#:		Reimbursable Account #:	

1.1.1 Incident Category

Air release of hazardous substances from waste pile fire at an industrial facility.

1.1.2 Site Description

The Hillcrest Industries facility collects boiler slag material (hardened residue collected from off-site co boilers) and processes it into sandblasting abrasive materials. The facility also processes glass fragments (cullet) into reflective road striping beads. Reportedly since May 2012, a fire has been smoldering in a pile of predominantly recycled plastic waste which covers an area of approximately one acre and is 40 feet high.

The facility receives mixed recycled glass, plastic, and paper waste and separates the glass portion for grinding into abrasives and reflective additives for road marking paint. Glass is separated from mechanical plastic, metal, and paper waste for further grinding into a fine particulate; residual plastic waste with metal is reportedly then sold to scrap dealers for additional reclamation of the metal content.

The Site encompasses Approximately 10 acres and has been in operation since 2000.

1.1.2.1 Location

The Hillcrest Industries facility (Site) is located on 40 Favor Street in Attica, NY. The area is rural/residential with residences present immediately adjacent to the Site. A high school is located approximately 200 feet from the Site.

1.1.2.2 Description of Threat

A stockpile of predominantly recycled plastic waste, covering an area of one acre and 40 feet high, has been burning (smoldering) since May 2012.

In July 2012, NYSDEC collected five dust samples from four residential properties and eleven samples from the Site at specific release points and from raw material and finished product. The samples were analyzed at NYSDEC's Microscopy Lab to determine the size of the particles to evaluate whether the dust could be attributed to Site operations. The particles found in the residential samples were reportedly attributable to facility operations and appear to be from crushed clear glass that feeds manufacturing operations. Reportedly, in addition to glass spheres and fractured glass, some slag product was identified.

1.1.3 Preliminary Removal Assessment/Removal Site Inspection Results

On September 21, 2012, OSC Bechtel arrived at the Hillcrest Recycling Response Site and met with Hillcrest representatives and NYSDEC officials. It was determined that EPA would continue to oversee the removal action party and ongoing carbon dioxide injection operations that were being performed by Hillcrest Recycling personnel throughout the weekend and until the F-500 FF agent was ready to be applied. At the same time EPA initiated a fund lead removal action (RV2) in order to dismantle and extinguish the fire.

Water injected into the 25' deep injection wells lowered the temperature, but the overall effectiveness has yet to be determined - the thermocouples were being checked twice a day at each injection well.

On September 23, 2012, Rep Hochul had a meeting at the facility with the RP and Village personnel. Rep Hochul toured the site and spoke with the concerned residents demonstrating outside.

The application of CO2 into the monitoring wells continued throughout the weekend with limited results. Temperatures in the two hottest monitoring wells climbed back up into the 400 degree F range by the end of Monday, September 24, 2012. On September 24, 2012, EPA and a Response Manager from our local contractor, Environmental Restoration, met with the RP and Village personnel to discuss the next day's application of water and fire fighting material. This began at 0900 hours on Tuesday, September 25, 2012, with a lance injecting the aqueous mixture at five foot intervals to a depth of 25 feet alongside the monitoring wells where temperatures were monitored. RST was on site for air monitoring and sampling the facility grounds during the event.

On Wednesday, September 26, 2012, OCS Bechtel determined that the injection of F500 encapsulating fire fighting agent was not successful and determined that the best course of action was to dismantle the waste pile. The RP took over the fund lead removal action (RV2) at this time. OSC met with RP's and prospective fire fighting contractor, Wargo Enterprises, and determined that the contractor had: 40hr Health & Safety certifications for their employees; necessary heavy equipment including pumper trucks; and a proposed work plan that adequately addressed the issues revolving around the selected operation. OSC approved the work plan by the RP.

The dismantling of the waste pile began on Saturday, September 29th, 2012. The rationale for initiating work on a Saturday was to minimize the impact to the nearby school. A decision was made to include volatile organic analyses since there is a significant amount of that class of contaminants in a fire involving organic materials.

ERT/SERAS mobilized on Friday, September 28th, 2012 in order to begin sampling on Saturday 29th, at the inception of the dismantling process. The locations included; 5 down wind in an arc formation; one at the perimeter; one up wind. These locations were not fixed, but rather were based on wind direction per site conditions. Daily sampling took place for the 7 locations, while 24hr operations were implemented, two sets of runs were collected to take into account environmental condition variances between day time and overnight hours. Analytical work was performed by SERAS.

Also on September 26th, OSC and PAD Basile met with the aides for Representative Hochul and Senator Galloway, discussed the site to date and proposed activities.

OSC met with reps from the two prisons and the two schools to update them on the site activities and address their concerns.

OSC and the ER Response Manager met with the county and local officials to review the proposed work plan for the disassembly and extinguishing of the burning stockpile.

OSC met with state and county DOH to discuss sample locations for the weekend; it was agreed to use the same locations as last time for continuity unless the wind direction changes.

OSC met with Hillcrest rep to ensure that they are proceeding with the finalization of the work plan. Rep

fighting water needs could be met.

2. Current Activities

2.1 Operations Section

2.1.1 Narrative

2.1.2 Response Actions to Date

EPA continued to oversee site activities conducted by Wargo Enterprises.

EPA met with local and state officials on a daily basis.

EPA Region 2 Public Affairs Division issued press releases for distribution and coordinated inquiries from local media.

<http://www.epa.gov/region02/superfund/removal/hillcrest/index.html>

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The fire was officially extinguished on Sunday, October 14, 2012.

The total amount of material moved: 49,000 cubic yards.

The EPA remained on site to support the fire management and temperature monitoring plan.

Results of air monitoring showed no detectable levels of volatile organic compounds. Levels of particle also been very low throughout most of the work. Data from lab analyzed results were posted on the EPA website.

Removal action timeline:

* The EPA received a verbal authorization from the Division Director of the Emergency and Remedial Response Division on September 21, 2012, for \$250,000 to begin emergency removal activities.

* The EPA activated the Region 2 ERRS contractor, Environmental Restorations, to conduct a fund I removal action (RV2). Emergency personnel began operations at the Site on September 21, 2012.

* On September 26, 2012, the EPA determined that the best course of action was to dismantle the waste pile.

* EPA approved the use of the RP's prospective fire fighting contractor, Wargo Enterprises on September 26, 2012.

* The dismantling of the waste pile began on September 29, 2012.

* The fire was officially extinguished on Sunday, October 14, 2012.

2.1.3 Enforcement Activities, Identity of Potentially Responsible Parties (PRPs)

Hillcrest Recycling was the Responsible Party. The NYSDEC took the lead in the enforcement process.

2.1.4 Progress Metrics

Contaminant of Concern/Waste Stream	Medium	Volume	Manifest #	Treatment Facility	Disposal Facility
Burned debris	debris	49,000 cu yds	staged on site	n/a	n/a
PAHs	air	n/a	n/a – stabilization	n/a	n/a
Particulates	air	n/a	action that involved	n/a	n/a
VOCs	air	n/a	dismantling waste pile/extinguishing fire	n/a	n/a

2.2 Planning Section

2.2.1 Anticipated Activities**2.2.1.1 Planned Response Activities**

Extinguishing of the fire.

Reduction of stock pile sizes.

Air sampling and monitoring.

2.2.1.2 Next Steps

NYSDEC is in discussions with the RP to determine when - or if - the air handling equipment is in good working condition and will allow for the resumption of the glass grinding operation which support manufacturing operations which also take place on site.

2.2.2 Issues

Long term program management and oversight of the facility will need to be addressed by the NYSDEC.

2.3 Logistics Section

N/A

2.4 Finance Section**2.4.1 Narrative**

Fire fighting costs are being paid for by the RP.

Estimated Costs *

	Budgeted	Total To Date	Remaining	% Remaining
Extramural Costs				
Environmental Restoration	\$250,000.00	\$5,435.00	\$244,565.00	97.83%
ERT/SERAS	\$189,000.00	\$167,744.00	\$21,256.00	11.25%
RST Weston thru 10/5	\$110,000.00	\$57,521.00	\$52,479.00	47.71%
Intramural Costs				
USEPA - Direct	\$50,000.00	\$41,117.00	\$8,883.00	17.77%
USEPA - InDirect	\$99,240.00	\$99,240.00	\$0.00	0.00%
Total Site Costs				
	\$698,240.00	\$371,057.00	\$327,183.00	46.86%

* The above accounting of expenditures is an estimate based on figures known to the OSC at the time the report was written. The OSC does not necessarily receive specific figures on final payments made to a contractor(s). Other financial data which the OSC must rely upon may not be entirely up-to-date. The accounting provided in this report does not necessarily represent an exact monetary figure which the government may include in any claim for cost recovery.

2.5 Other Command Staff

2.5.1 Safety Officer

All operations will conform to the following regulations:

Title 29, Part 1910 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Occupational Safety and Health Standards (with special attention to Section 120, Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response)

Title 29, Part 1926 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Safety and Health Regulations for Construction

National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health / OSHA / USCG / EPA Occupational Safety and Health Guidance Manual for Hazardous Waste Site Activities

2.5.2 Liaison Officer

N/A

2.5.3 Information Officer

EPA PAD, Mike Basile and Mary Mears, will keep the media informed of all site activities. A website was developed for public information.

3. Participating Entities**3.1 Unified Command**

US EPA

Hillcrest Industries

3.2 Cooperating Agencies

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

New York State Department of Health

Wyoming County Department of Health

Wyoming County Office of Emergency Management

Village of Attica

Town of Attica

4. Personnel On Site

US EPA - 1

US EPA / ERT - 1

Lockheed Martin - 2

Weston Solutions - 2

Wargo Enterprises - as needed

5. Definition of Terms

N/A

6. Additional sources of information

6.1 Internet location of additional information/report

NYSDEC website

<http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/83781.html>

(<http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/83781.html>)

US EPA website

<http://www.epa.gov/region02/superfund/removal/hillcrest/index.html>

(<http://www.epa.gov/region02/superfund/removal/hillcrest/index.html>)

6.2 Reporting Schedule

Weekly or As needed

7. Situational Reference Materials

N/A



- > EPA OSC Home (../Default.aspx)
- > Web sites (region_list.aspx?region=2)

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